

**National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594**

**Brief of Accident**

**Adopted 07/30/2001**

ATL01LA032 File No. 10213	01/31/2001	KEY WEST, FL	Aircraft Reg No. N208KW	Time (Local): 10:40 EST		
Make/Model:	Cessna / 208			Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Engine Make/Model:	P&W / PT8-114A		Crew	0	0	1
Aircraft Damage:	Substantial		Pass	0	0	9
Number of Engines:	1					
Operating Certificate(s):	On-demand Air Taxi					
Name of Carrier:	SEAPLANES OF KEY WEST					
Type of Flight Operation:	Sightseeing; Non-scheduled; Domestic; Passenger Only					
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter					
Last Depart. Point:	Same as Accident/Incident Location			Condition of Light:	Day	
Destination:	Local Flight			Weather Info Src:	Weather Observation Facility	
Airport Proximity:	On Airport			Basic Weather:	Visual Conditions	
Airport Name:	Key West International			Lowest Ceiling:	None	
Runway Identification:	Unk/Nr			Visibility:	10.00 SM	
Runway Length/Width (Ft):	Unk/Nr			Wind Dir/Speed:	150 / 008 Kts	
Runway Surface:	Water			Temperature (°C):	23	
Runway Surface Condition:	Water--calm			Obstr to Vision:		
				Precipitation:		
Pilot-in-Command	Age: 45			Flight Time (Hours)		
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)				Total All Aircraft:	15000	
Airline Transport; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea				Last 90 Days:	140	
Instrument Ratings				Total Make/Model:	2620	
Airplane				Total Instrument Time:	150	

The pilot planned and performed a water landing to avoid any past wake swells created by the ferry boat. Approximately 1/2 to 3/4 through his landing slide, with the plane slowed to approximate 30 - 35 knots, a large swell appeared before him. Despite efforts to avoid the wake created by the boat, the airplane encountered a swell that launched the airplane 10-15 feet into the air. The airplane subsequently collided with the water and the rear float struts failed at the attachment points. No mechanical problems with the airplane were reported by the pilot.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (C) TERRAIN CONDITION - LARGE WAVE/SWELL
2. (C) TOUCHDOWN - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.

The airplanes' inadvertent collision with a swell during a water landing near a ferry boat that resulted the overload failure of the rear float/strut assembly.